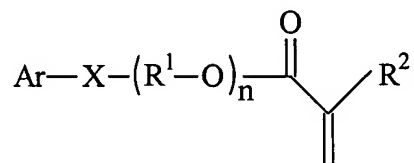


What is claimed is:

1. A pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising an aromatic monomer in an amount of at least 20 parts per 100 parts of total monomer, the aromatic monomer having the following formula:



wherein:

Ar is an aromatic group which is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of Br_y and (R³)_z

wherein y represents the number of bromine substituents attached to the aromatic group and is an integer from 0 to 3;

R³ is a straight or branched alkyl of 2 to 12 carbons; and

z represents the number of R³ substituents attached to the aromatic ring and is an integer from 0 to 1,

provided that both y and z are not zero when Ar is substituted;

X is oxygen or sulfur;

n is 0 to 3;

R¹ is an unsubstituted straight or branched alkyl linking group of 2 to 12 carbons; and

R² is either H or CH₃.

2. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein z is 1 and R³ is a straight or branched alkyl of 2 to 8 carbons.

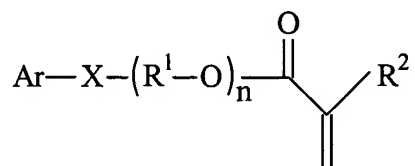
3. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein Ar is a naphthyl group.

4. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein n is 0 or 1.

5. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index is at least 1.48.
- 5 6. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, further comprising:
at least one acrylic monomer selected from the group consisting of monomeric acrylic or methacrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alkyl alcohol of about 1 to about 12 carbons.
- 10 7. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, further comprising at least one polar monomer copolymerizable with the aromatic monomer(s).
8. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, further comprising:
at least one acrylic monomer selected from the group consisting of monomeric acrylic or methacrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alkyl alcohol of about 1 to about 12 carbons, and
15 at least one polar monomer copolymerizable with the aromatic monomer(s) and acrylic monomer(s).
9. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 6, wherein the acrylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 1-butanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol, 2-methyl-
20 1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-pentanol, 3-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-ethyl-1-butanol, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-hexanol, 3-heptanol, 2-octanol, 1-decanol, 1-dodecanol, and mixtures thereof.
- 25 10. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 7, wherein the polar monomer(s) are selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphoric acids, acrylamides, N,N-dialkyl substituted acrylamides, N-vinyl lactams, and N,N-dialkylaminoalkyl acrylates, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, and mixtures thereof.

11. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 10, wherein the polar monomer(s) are selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.
- 5 12. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 6-(4,6-dibromo-2-isopropyl phenoxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 6-(4,6-dibromo-2-sec-butyl phenoxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 2,6-dibromo-4-nonylphenyl acrylate, 2,6-dibromo-4-dodecyl phenyl acrylate, 2-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-ethyl acrylate, 2-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-ethyl acrylate, 6-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 6-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-hexyl
10 acrylate, 8-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-octyl acrylate, 8-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-octyl acrylate, and phenoxy ethyl acrylate.
13. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 8, further comprising a crosslinker.
- 15 14. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 8, further comprising one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, vinyl acetate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, styrene, and mixtures thereof.
- 20 15. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 8, further comprising a tackifier.
16. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 8, further comprising a plasticizer.
17. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein X is oxygen.
- 25 18. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein X is sulfur.
19. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic monomer is 2-phenylthio-1-ethyl acrylate.

20. A pressure-sensitive adhesive having an index of refraction of at least 1.48 and comprising an aromatic monomer having the following formula:



wherein:

- 5 Ar is an aromatic group which is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of Br_y and (R³)_z wherein y represents the number of bromine substituents attached to the aromatic group and is an integer from 0 to 3;
 R³ is a straight or branched alkyl of 2 to 12 carbons; and
 10 z represents the number of R³ substituents attached to the aromatic ring and is an integer from 0 to 1,
 provided that both y and z are not zero when Ar is substituted;
 X is oxygen or sulfur;
 n is 0 to 3;
 15 R¹ is an unsubstituted straight or branched alkyl linking group of 2 to 12 carbons; and
 R² is either H or CH₃.

20 21. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein z is 1 and R³ is a straight or branched alkyl of 2 to 8 carbons.

22. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein Ar is a naphthyl group.

25 23. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein n is 0 or 1.

24. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, further comprising:

at least one acrylic monomer selected from the group consisting of monomeric acrylic or methacrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alkyl alcohol of about 1 to about 12 carbons.

25. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, further comprising at least one polar monomer copolymerizable with the aromatic monomer(s).

26. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, further comprising:
at least one acrylic monomer selected from the group consisting of monomeric acrylic or methacrylic acid ester of a non-tertiary alkyl alcohol of about 1 to about 12 carbons, and
at least one polar monomer copolymerizable with the aromatic monomer(s) and acrylic monomer(s).

27. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 24, wherein the acrylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 1-butanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-pentanol, 3-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-ethyl-1-butanol, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-hexanol, 3-heptanol, 2-octanol, 1-decanol, 1-dodecanol, and mixtures thereof.

28. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 25, wherein the polar monomer(s) are selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphoric acids, acrylamides, N,N-dialkyl substituted acrylamides, N-vinyl lactams, and N,N-dialkylaminoalkyl acrylates, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, and mixtures thereof.

29. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 28, wherein the polar monomer(s) are selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

30. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein the aromatic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 6-(4,6-dibromo-2-isopropyl phenoxy)-1-hexyl

acrylate, 6-(4,6-dibromo-2-sec-butyl phenoxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 2,6-dibromo-4-nonylphenyl acrylate, 2,6-dibromo-4-dodecyl phenyl acrylate, 2-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-ethyl acrylate, 2-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-ethyl acrylate, 6-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 6-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-hexyl acrylate, 8-(1-naphthyloxy)-1-octyl acrylate, 8-(2-naphthyloxy)-1-octyl acrylate, and phenoxy ethyl acrylate.

31. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 26, further comprising a crosslinker.

32. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 26, further comprising one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, vinyl acetate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, styrene, and mixtures thereof.

33. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 26, further comprising a tackifier.

34. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 26, further comprising a plasticizer.

35. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein X is oxygen.

36. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein X is sulfur.

37. The pressure-sensitive adhesive according to claim 20, wherein the aromatic monomer is 2-phenylthio-1-ethyl acrylate.

38. A composition having a refractive index of at least 1.48 wherein said composition is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

39. The composition according to claim 38, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises at least one monomer that contains (meth)acrylic functionality.